GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7655
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2002
EXPANSION OF ORDNANCE FACTORY
ANANTA NAYAK

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ordnance factories in the country which are proposed to be expanded during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any steps are being taken to restructure these ordnance factories;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up an ordnance factory during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to stop the frequent fire and other mishaps in ordnance factories?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): Product Diversification/Expansion and Modernisation of Ordnance Factories is a continuous process.Ordnance Factory Board has already drawn a modernisation plan for all the Ordnance Factories covering Xth Plan period to meet the present and futuristic requirements of the Armed Forces. No plan for restructuring of any Ordnance Factory is under consideration.

(d) & (e): An Ordnance Factory is being established at Nalanda for which the process was started during the IXth Plan period to meet the requirement of the new generation of Bi-Modular Propellant Charge System for high calibre ammunitions.The factory will commence operations during the Xth Five Year Plan period.

(f) A structured system exists in Ordnance Factories to investigate the causes of accidental fire, explosion etc. Each case of fire/mishaps is investigated by the Experts / Board of enquiry and the recommendations of the enquiry are implemented to avoid recurrences. Ordnance Factories are also observing safety month in May 2002.During the safety month safety audits at different levels and elaborate training to the employees on General Safety Directions, safety instructions and other safety related issues to improve awareness amongst the employees is being carried out.